youth, Rural Employment Generation Programmes and developemnt of rural clusters through the National Programme for Rural Industrialisation.

These on-going programmes/schemes for development of small scale industries sector are proposed to be continued during the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001. During the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002), a total amount of Rs. 4304.00 crores have been earmarked for promotion of SSI sector in the country as a whole. However, funds are allocated programme/scheme-wise and not State-wise and required budgetary provisions have been made as usual.

Village Industries in Tamil Nadu

2438. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of villages in Tamil Nadu where people have been involved in KVIC in the villages;

(b) the details of the Village Industries which have been registered with;

(c) how many people are employed in these villages; and

(d) what grant-in aids are given to set up such village Industries to grow?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) There are 15735 villages which have been covered under the KVIC activities in Tamil Nadu.

(b) the village industries-such as Palmgur, Beekeeping, Edible oil, Aggarbatti and Cottage Match Sticks, Carpentry, Blacksmithy, Non-edible Oil and Soap, Pottery, Handmade paper, Leather & Polyvastra etc. have been registered with the KVIC in Tamil Nadu.

(c) 11.16 lakhs people have been employed in Khadi and Village Industries in these villages in Tamil Nadu.

(d) The KVIC's Margin Money Scheme is applicable throughout the country including Tamil Nadu. 25% of the project cost is provided as 'Margin Money'. For project cost above Rs. 10 lakhs and upto Rs. 25 lakhs the rate of 'Margin Money' is 25% of Rs. 10 lakhs plus 10% of the balance cost of the project. For the weaker sections, the Margin Money is given at the rate of 30% of the

project cost upto Rs. 10 lakhs and for the balance amount (upto Rs. 25 lakhs) it is 10%.

Assessment of GDP

2439. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:
SHRI E. BALANANDAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost of negative environmental impact of development is being taken into account while assessing Gross Domestic Product (GDP);

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware that over 10 per cent of the country's GDP is being lost annually due to environmental damage and related impact;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) the steps Government has taken to control the environmental damage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Though concerns have been expressed both at national and international levels to take into account the environmental damages in the economic aggregates, it has not, however, been possible to evolve firm agreement at the international level on concept, definition, measurement and valuation of environmental assets and degradation beyond natural rejuvenation process. Therefore, the UN Statistical Commission has not recommended that the estimates of GDP be corrected for environmental damages.

(c) and (d) No official estimates of the loss of GDP due to environment damage and related impact are available. Some research studies are, however, available which indicate such losses varying from 2.64% to about 10%. These research studies are not based on comparable methodology and are heavily influenced by the value judgement of research workers.

(d) Several steps have been taken by the Government to prevent and control